

English I: Unit 01

Reading Appetizer

Purpose: Reading Appetizers expose students to the vast variety of reading materials in the world in order to encourage independent reading and to encourage students to make connections among texts they read.

Time: 3-5 minutes

Description: At the beginning of each class period that focuses on Writing share an interesting text or excerpt with students. This may connect to the genre and/or theme that students are studying in class or it could be something that piques the interest of the students in the class. The piece can come from a range of sources, including (but not limited to) novels, short stories, newspapers, magazines, textbooks, or anthologies.

Option 1: Encourage students to keep a log of “Texts I’d Like to Read” in the Reader’s Notebook. If a text peaks their interest, students should record the title and author for future Independent Reading.

Option 2: After the selection has been read, students write a short reflection in a designated section of the Reader’s Notebook. Writing prompts can be used to help focus student responses.

Preparation: Search for interesting reading materials on a daily basis. Specific examples may include an article found on the Internet, an article read at the dentist’s office, a great recipe someone shared, a poem written for a friend, a chapter from a novel, the first few paragraphs of a short story, a newspaper article, a manual for an electronic device, a brochure, etc. Locate texts that will connect with students and inspire them to want to read more. When at all possible, include examples of media.